Mail and Empire Editorially states "Movies Must be Censored in the Home"

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I SEE BY THE PAPERS

THAT "Great Artists Love Each Other". The inspiration of this artistic love is Szigeti, the Hungarian violinist, guest artist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, which presented its third concert of its series of ten, at Massey Hall the evening of Tuesday, November 27th.

Aside from speaking in affectionate terms of Kreisler, Szigeti said, "Anything that is well-done is beautiful, and to do anything well requires a lifetime of application". Following this form of reasoning a very simple story and production can be made beautiful if it is well-done, that is perfectly produced.

The papers relate that "Canada Has Led U.S. In Recovery". Professor Sumner H. Slichter, professor of business economics Harvard University is responsible for the caption and the statement; "Part of the remarkable recovery which Canada has made from the depression was due to President F. D. Roosevelt, for, when he allowed the U.S. dollar to depreciate he allowed Canada to get back into the sterling area".

The papers say, "Achievements Bennett's Bid For New Term". This leads to the matter of a Federal Election in Canada predicted for next September or October, when the present Government, the majority rule which is Conservative, will bid for re-election on its Record of Government during the past four years. The public is to be told what the present Government of the Dominion has accomplished.

Another press headline reads, International Court Finds Jews Not Guilty of Plot". This verdict refers to the Protocols of The Elders of Zion largely held responsible for Anti-Semitism, Jewish Pogroms etc. An international court in Switzerland has found these documents to be a fabrication and a falsification from beginning to end. Professor Paul Muliekoff, renowned historian and one-time foreign minister in the provincial government of Russia gave evidence that the documents were manufactured by the czarist police.

The accused in the Berne trial was Theodor Fischer, a publisher of Nazi literature. The judge severely reprimanded him for not investigating the authenticity of the protocols which he intended publishing in Switzerland. Fischer said he could bring evidence but it would take him years to seek it out. He told the court he was no enemy to the Jewish people but anxious to see every Jew thrown out of Switzerland.

Dr. Pavel Swatikoff, one time chief of the secret archives of the Czarist government stated that he and experts in his department definitely knew that the protocols were not authentic as soon as they were received.

Most of the Jew-baiting in Germany has been based on these protocols, but Germany has taken no note of this International Court and its judgment. The Toronto Daily Star states, "The trial is bound to have an important repercussion in America and in Canada, since the Nazi propaganda bureau has taken steps to have two million copies of the protocols in the English language scattered in the North American continent, but may now have difficulties as the Swiss trial has conclusively established the document's malicious character and the courts of America may accept the finding of the Berne judicial decisions."

Did any newsreels present a shot of the International Court and its decision in respect to the protocols? Here is a real service for the Screen which can spread the gospel of Good-Will, thereby destroying the seeds of Racial Hatred, of Bigotry which helps to incite Wars.

RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

THE Border Cities Star of Windsor, Ont., has an editorial in its Nov. 22nd issue headed, "Mr. Hepburn Is Right". The editorial comments on an alleged statement of the Premier's in reference to the Legion of Decency, "If the League wished to advertise a motion picture, the way to do it would be to announce that the film was immoral and unfit for the public to see. In such a case the people would flock to the theatres showing the picture".

The editorial continues, with this sane viewpoint: "Ontario, like the other Provinces, has a board of film censors, with an appeal body headed by the Prime Minister. To these organizations it seems to us, we may well entrust the supervision of our motion picture fare".

There is no argument against such a presentation of facts and with such sound reasoning. We have Censor Boards in Canada operating for all the Provinces of the Dominion. The fact that a picture has passed the Ontario Board of Censors is no guarantee that it will pass the Censor Board of Quebec, or of Manitoba, etc., etc. This has been one of the weaknesses of the Censor Board, for no one can without fanaticism, or bigotry argue that a nation should be divided in its conception of "fit and unfit", "moral and immoral", "decent and indecent".

The division occurs only when Religious Rules intrude themselves. One Form of Religion banns its followers from "dancing or playing cards". Another banns "divorce". Still another has its Sabbath on Saturday and is free from spiritual sin in the non-observance of Sunday as an Appointed Day by God for Rest and Worship.

How then can we who follow various and opposing Forms of Religious Worship unite in a League of Decency which shall state what Motion Pictures should be banned?

WHEN The Church and The State were divided in the respective government of the people it was evolutionary and a decided indication of progress and civilization. It was the forerunner of religious freedom and tolerance, of liberty and a fuller measure of justice.

When The Church controlled The State the ministers of the Crown were of the same Church as the King and Queen; and woe to those who were Unbelievers in accordance with the religious viewpoint of the Rulers. Had we had Censor Boards during those days of Church-Control the Censors would have not only banned all ideas, customs and situations which were not in accordance with the ordinances of The Church which ruled, but in addition it would have ordered the arrest for heresy and blasphemy of the producers, distributors and players of the banned motion pictures.

Today the Censor Boards function without the religious angle as a point of consideration, save that the Law provides that there shall be no disrespect toward religious worship shown, nor any presentation which shall tend to inspire religious controversy, or strife. By following this rule the Ethical Values of a nation are protected from undue influence if we may be permitted the use of such an expression.

Aside from any Church rules laid down by any prophet, or religious leader, there are certain codes of behavior which civilized people recognize irrespective of their religious beliefs; and these are the codes which only concern the Censor Board.

NO Censor Board anywhere, nor at any time, any more than any Government can satisfy all the people all the time. It is in the nature of human beings to be contradictory; and physical disabilities, as well as excessive good health influence greatly the behavior and the attitude of the people toward religion and the Government.

There was never a more timely time for real service by The Church and the people than there is today. There was never a time during the writer's span of life, when people were more inclined to criticize.

If The Church is interested in helping it might, instead of asking its parishioners to sign a pledge of Decency, ask them to sign a pledge to attend good motion pictures.

There is a very familiar Biblical instruction, "Overcome Evil with Good". Build up a powerful patronage for good pictures, and stop talking about those which the League proclaim as Evil.

Aside from "damning with faint praise", what has The Church ever done to help make Motion Pictures better than they are? When they are free from criticism The Church ignores The Screen; when there is a possible angle which can be "played up", the Reformers seek out the picture which has the angle which will make a newspaper headline, and they play this up.

THE distribution of pictures in Canada needs no moral code for its regulation. Compare the Motion Picture Industry with the operation of some of the other Enterprises in Canada now being investigated by the Government Commission. What is the reaction upon the youth of our Dominion? Have the statements made by responsible men in responsible positions, who present figures in relationship to short

(Continued on page 5)

Major Charles J. O'Sullivan, Famous War Hero, Father of Maureen, Visits M-G-M Studios

Ray Presents

(Continued from page 4)

weight, slave wages, etc., etc., anything to do with the morals of this Dominion? Is The Church interested in making statements concerning such business methods; and will a League of Decency to govern the conduct of business be inspired? We will answer our own question by saying, "no". Such an inspiration would only come from one, or two religious leaders who would receive the consideration for their zeal which John received when he was as "a voice crying in the wilderness".

Have the leaders of the League of Decency considered that a picture passes many Censor Boards in Canada before it has Dominion-wide distribution? That its pilgrimage through the Censor Boards is reminiscent of a legal action which is appealed and appealed until it finally is settled at the Throne of the King, by the Privy Council. Would The Church take the position to say that the judgment of the Privy Council should be overruled? This is the position which The Church is attempting to take in relationship to pictures which have been passed for Dominion-wide distribution.

THERE is a very decided case of a challenge to the Government. The Catholic Church disagrees with the Censor Board department of the Government of Ontario and seeks to inspire its followers in other provinces to challenge their respective Government Censorship departments of Motion Pictures also. Not only do these leaders seek to bring a united opposition of people of their own faith into opposition to the Government, but they seek the united co-operation of Protestant and Jews?

What is the difference between such organization of army forces, and the forces which seek to unite for shorter hours and higher wages, unemployment insurance, Socialism, or any other of the Questions which arouse the emotions of the people into a state of rebellion?

The Cloak of Religion may hide a multitude of sins, but it cannot hide the fact that the League of Decency is attempting to organize a powerful League, just as Father Coughlin is attempting to organize a League across the United States with pledges for Social Rights, or as Tim Buck might organize for the revocation of the 98th Amendment. There is no difference save in the instrument which is used.

Father Coughlin, either in support of the NRA Codes, or realizing their limitations by way of Social Rights, forms a Social Rights League. Tim Buck or any other Buck forms his League for his conception of Social Rights, while the League of Decency starts off with the idea of cleaning up Motion Pictures, the stage, the circus, and then Literature in general, etc., etc.

If it is right for one League to organize, it is right for all others. We are of the opinion that it is less right for the League of Decency to organize in respect to Motion Pictures in Canada because of the position of the Censor Boards in relationship to the Provincial Governments.

THE League of Decency is very plainly stating that the Boards are not properly doing their work. This may prove an inspiration to Premier Hepburn, who has a penchant for eliminating all superflous bodies, or barnacles which are attached to the Government. Premier Hepburn might in view of the League of Decency decide to save the citizens of Ontario, over which Censor Board he has control, the thousands and thousands of dollars which these Censor Boards cost for their operation.

Many a Government has been defeated upon a vote of a lack of confidence of less importance than this issue.

We are mindful of what a "five cent expression" did to the Liberal Party back in 1930; and still in the immediate region of memory we recall that Reciprocity defeated that grand old man, Sir Wilfred Laurier.

EVEN a "Little" man whose neck is encased in a collar turned backwards, may attack the Adam's Apple, which has not this well-starched covering, of a Premier, using the most powerful weapon in the world the Spear of Religion to wound his opponent, and The Shield of Religion to protect the attacker.

When The Church enters into a controversy, or attacks a layman, or a group of laymen, it has an advantage of which it is fully aware.

The press announce that a Catholic Priest and a bride have been shot to death in a Knights of Columbus Hotel by a converted Jew, who was studying for the Presbyterian ministery.

Here is a religious triangle which must have a most evil reaction in this day of dying Faith in religious leaders, and Organized Religions. Would the Motion Picture interests which are being attacked cite this sordid episode, as the Legion of Decency cites one questionable Motion Picture through which it condemns; and organizes a Legion of Decency? No, this so-called unmoral, or immoral Motion Picture Industry respects the fact that One Priest who falls from grace, one converted Jew inspired to adopt the Ministry of the Christian Church, and who murders two people, is no reason to condemn the Ministry for not having spiritually Christianized its adopted son, nor its priest.

The League might argue that this is one Priest, and if Motion Pictures was not reverent and respectful toward all Religions, it might present a series of offences by several priests, which involved them in the crimes of drunkenness, assault, manslaughter, murder, nor is this restricted to the Catholic Priesthood, there have been many examples of Protestant ministers arrayed before the Tribunals of Justice for similar crimes.

IF we, who are judged, would sit in judgment, and our judges would hear our arguments in a spirit of justice, is it not likely that our sins of omission are more forgivable than the sins of the Leaders of our Church; and is it not a fact that we in presenting Entertainment have less responsibility than those who presume to have the custody of our souls?

The Censor Boards protect the Church from any presentation upon the Screen which reveals the Sinners of The Church, but what protection has The Screen from the persecution and prosecution of The Pulpit?

Kiwanis Magazine Defends "Much Maligned Movies"

Reviews and Previews
By "JAY L."

"THE MERRY WIDOW" (M-G-M)

AS I sit writing this review I can hear an orchestra softly playing the enchanting music that Franz Lehar wrote for "The Merry Widow". It is hard to believe that anyone who has ever heard this music would care to miss seeing the picture in which these airs are featured; and I assure you that nobody that does see the picture will regret it.

Metro's "Merry Widow", which is playing at Loew's Toronto is a different, and, I think better "Merry Widow", than the one in which John Gilbert and Mae Murray starred in the days of silent films. (That, of course can partly be accounted for by the fact that you can hear the music instead of having to imagine you are hearing it.) There is, however, something else that makes this a picture that will long be remembered. Perhaps it is the incomparable touch of Ernest Lubitsch whom many agree is the greatest of the great. Perhaps it is the delightful voice and great beauty of Jeanette MacDonald, or perhaps it is Chevalier's intoxicating personality. Who knows, and who cares? Whatever it is, it's there.

The plot, which, in the talkie version at least, is the least important part of the picture, is so familiar to almost all, that there is no need for this reviewer to relate it. Sufficient is it to say that it centres around a certain Count Danilo, heart-breaker and home-breaker *de luxe* who is sent to Paris to entice back to Marshovia a beauteous widow, who own practically all Marshovia and who, it is feared, is about to permanently withdraw her wealth and her person from her country, her native land. (Sounds of Martial music.)

Chevalier as Danilo leaves nothing to be desired, and Jeanette MacDonald, although at times she seems to be acting with a certain amount of restraint, is nevertheless excellently cast as the "Merry Widow". Edward Everett as the Marshovian Ambassador repeats his sterling performance in "The Gay Divocee", and George Barbier and Una Merkel are satisfactorily humorous in the few scenes in which they appear. Sterling Holloway as Chevalier's batman gives his usually comically languid performance, and the music is . . . well . . . divine.

Mack Sennett To Produce In England

C. W. Scott and Campbell Black, the British airmen who recently flew from England to Australia in just under three days, have been signed for a film. It will be made by Mack Sennett, who is holidaying over here, and will be a story of the big flight "embodying a race for life". There will be a love interest. The picture will be produced in England, but more than that I cannot tell.

Incidentally, I listened to Mack Sennett on the radio recently when he was featured on one of the popular B.B.C. Saturday evening broadcasts, "In Town Tonigt", designed to present interesting personalities to listeners. Sennett was full of enthusiasm over British production. He urged producers here to concentrate more on "internationally national" subjects. Americans, he said, wanted to see more of the real England on the screen and less of the sophisticated drawing-room entertainment that had been inclined to dominate the British output.

Dear Old London

(Special to The Digest from our London correspondent, Dennison Thornton)

IRVING ASSHER, head of Warners-First National, London, England, recently married Laura La Plante.

Ex-Mayor of New York, Jimmie Walker has been spending most of his time around the Teddington lot. His wife, Betty Compton, is working in Warners' British pictures.

"Blossom Time" is in its 11th week in the West End. A marvellous run. "One Night of Love" has just started in its seventh week.

"We Live Again" opened at the London Pavilion a few days ago. Got a fair press reception. In his review of the picture, Mannock of the "Daily Herald", concludes . . . "and the supernumeraries have some splendid Ohio accents".

"No Greater Glory" has entered the Leicester Square Theatre, replacing the successful "Nell Gwyn".

The Jack Hulbert picture "Camels are Coming", is doing nicely at the New Gallery. If this film plays the States what a lovely chance for a tie-up with the manufacturers of that celebrated brand of cigarette!

The Prince of Wales will attend the premiere of G-B's Arliss opus, "Iron Duke", at the end of this month. The place is the Tivoli.

Fairbanks senior has broken off all relations with London Films. Fairbanks sold his interest in the firm to Korda who said there was no bad feeling, but that he could get along alright without Mr. Fairbanks.

"Chained" has opened at the Empire and should have a good run. It got quite a good press.

The only American unit that is making any noise in England at present is the Warner's First National outfit down at Teddington. Fox have been hiring various small studios for production.

Witnessed shooting on one of their operas down at Ealing recently, "The Shakespeare Murders" it was called then. Now I hear they've changed the title to "The Third Clue".

Columbia have only produced one picture here that I know of — "The Lady Is Willing". Paramount have done one or two interesting little pictures which are usually shoved into programmes without being billed or advertised in the press. "Get Your Man" was an amusing Paramount comedy. "Seeing is Believing" is just so much wasted footage.

M-G-M have produced several pictures here, the best of them being "The Song of the Plough". It was a charming little story of the vexed tithe question which has been troubling the dear old English farmer. The photograph of the English countryside in the film was positively breath-taking.

Universal usually place orders for their "Quotas" with Twickenham Studios.

Radio made a very fine picture here called "Say It With Flowers". All about the flower sellers of Covent Garden. Very sentimental and often very funny it got quite a lot of attention here. It was made at the Twickenham Studios.

Government Warns Newsreels

The Government has issued a warning to British newsreel men regarding "gruesome and undesirable" items. Recent pictures of the assassination of King Alexander of Jugo-Slavia brought protests from all over the country against what was termed an exhibition of bad taste.

Kingston Whig-Standard Editorially states "No Need for Legion of Decency"

Show Business

Russian Gypsy Song Basis of New Short at M-G-M

The story of "Otchi Tchornya", the gypsy love song which brought moments of happiness to Hussia's terror-ridden millions, is being made into a motion picture at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios. Production of the novelty, which is to be released under the title of "Dark Eyes", started last week with Josef Berne directing.

The Cast for "Folies Bergere de Paris"

Casting by Darryl F. Zanuck for the 20th Century production, "Folies Bergere de Paris", is proceeding rapidly, with most of the featured roles already assigned to players. Maurice Chevalier, following his recent arrival in Hollywood, is already in advanced stages of rehearsal for the stellar role. Merle Oberon is the star in the principal feminine role.

Warner Bros. Promotions

Mr. H. O. Paynter, Canadian General Manager of Warner Bros., announces the following promotions in his territory:

Lew McKenzie, formerly salesman in the Toronto office of Warner Bros., has been promoted to the position of Branch Manager at St. John, N.B.; while "Mickey" Isman, formerly Branch Manager at St. John who succeeded J. Butler to that position a few months ago, has been awarded the important position of Branch Manager at Montreal.

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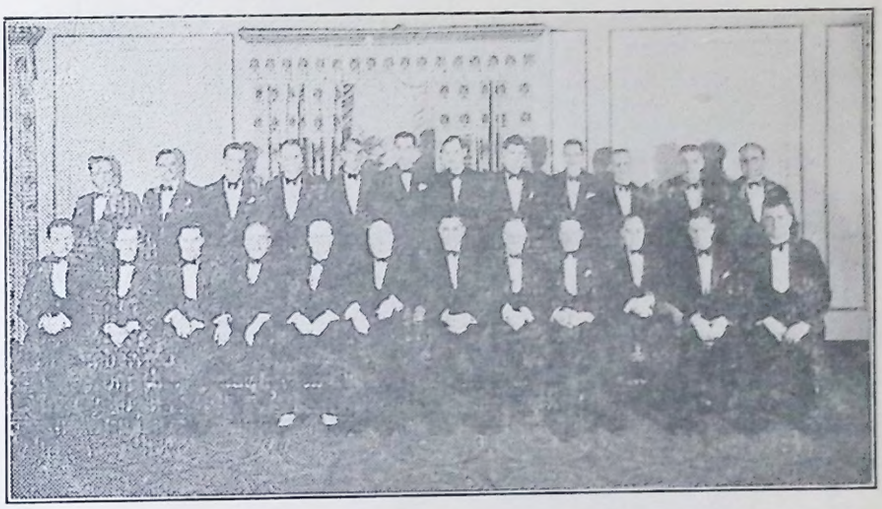


SITTING (Left to Right)—L. Stephens, R. Daignault, N. D. Lazanis, C. K. Sperdakos, B. M. Garfield, Mr. Gidlow (Secretary of the St. John's Ambulance Society), Mr. Geo. Ganetakos (Managing-Director United Amusements), E. Lefebvre, L. Vardev, W. Gilbert, Geo. Slater and R. Vandette.
STANDING (Left to Right)—W. Goldwater, J. Blaine, W. Wright, W. Lester, F. H. Warnicker, G. Dahn, E. Savard, B. Quelch, L. Genereux, C. E. Bailey, P. J. Godel and L. Rosenbloom.

Universal Secure Film Rights Ursula Parrott Novel

In spite of all the uncertainty as to who would secure Ursula Parrott's latest novel, "Say Goodbye Again", Universal declares that it has the story purchased and the contract signed, sold and delivered. The first chapter started in the December number of McCall's, now on the stands. It will not be published in novel form for six months.

"The Winning Ticket" has gone into production at the Culver City studios of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, with a cast that includes Leo Carrillo, Louise Fazenda, Ted Healy, and Irene Hervey.

Irving Berlin Signed by RKO Radio

Irving Berlin, whose songs have made American entertainment history, has been signed by RKO Radio Pictures to write the score, for, and assist in the production of, a new musical picture to star Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers according to an announcement of B. B. Kahane, President of RKO Radio Pictures.

The Berlin film, to be titled "Top Hat", will go into production on the completion of "Roberta", the RKO Radio filming of the Jerome Kern musical comedy hit which is to co-feature Irene Dunne, Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire.

Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S — Manager Jules Bernstein — "The Merry Widow", a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production with Maurice Chevalier and Jeannette MacDonald.

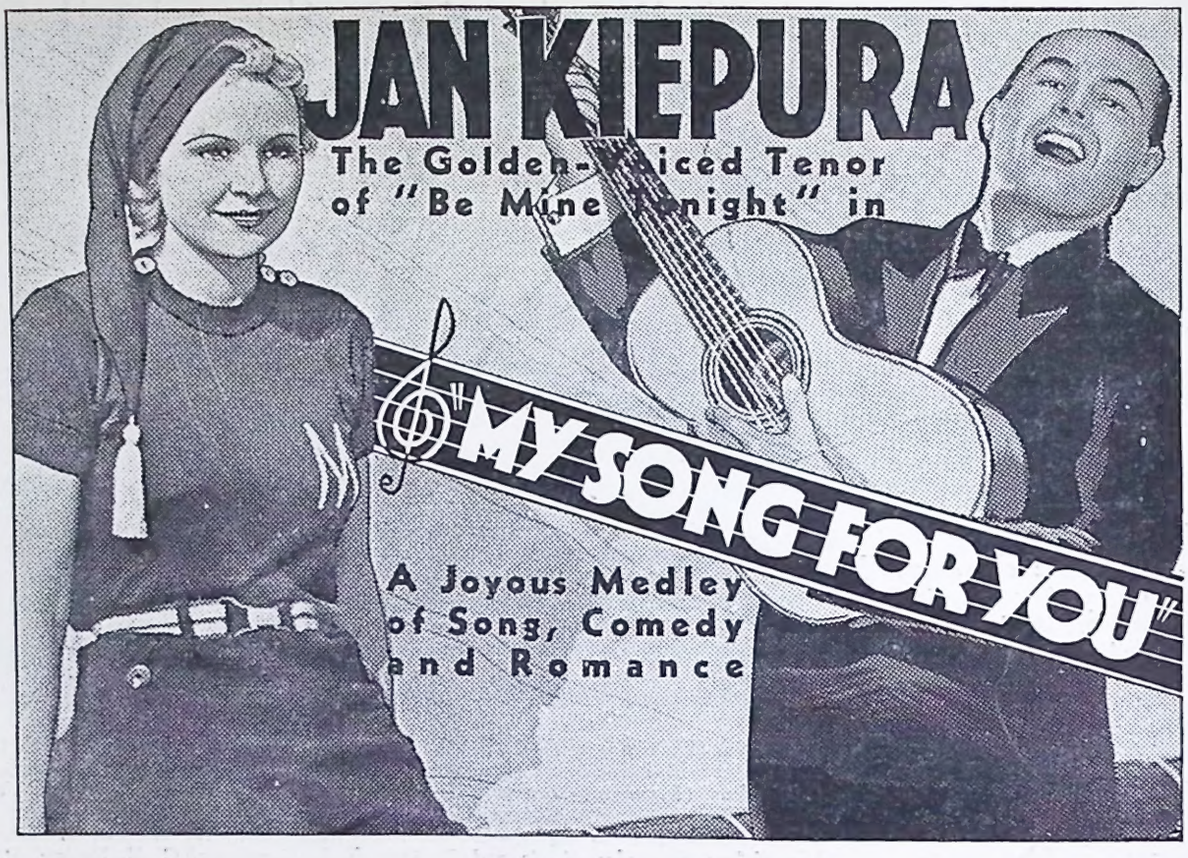
IMPERIAL—Manager Jack Arthur — "The White Parade", a Fox picture with John Boles and Loretta Young.

TIVOLI—Manager D. Krendal — Robert Donat and Elissa Landi in "The Count of Monte Cristo", — United Artists.

UPTOWN—Manager Tom Daley — "Little Friend", with Nova Pilbeam, Gaumont-British picture released through Regal Films Ltd.

SHEA'S — Manager Jerry Shea — Jean Muir and George Brent, in the Warner Bros.' picture, "Desirable".

International Showmen Convention at Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Had Attendance of Over 2,000 Delegates



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